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## Raleigh City Council Approves Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan

On Jan. 2, the Raleigh City Council approved the Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan.

The pedestrian plan provides strategies for enhancing Raleigh's transportation system by promoting walkability throughout the city. It assesses existing facilities, policies, plans and programs that affect pedestrian mobility; and provides recommendations for improvements. The plan also includes templates for pedestrian infrastructure improvements, examples of tools and techniques for improving walkability, and a prioritized list of proposed sidewalk projects throughout Raleigh.



The Pedestrian Plan builds on the City's 1992 American with Disabilities Act Transition Plan, 1993 Sidewalk Priority Funding Program, the 2030 Comprehensive Plan and the Unified Development Ordinance. The plan is a companion to the City of Raleigh Bicycle Transportation Plan. The plan reflects current practices and incorporates new pedestrian friendly standards and programs.

A review of existing conditions and pedestrian experiences established four key priorities:

- Install sidewalks where they are missing;
- Maintain existing sidewalks;
- Make it easier and safer for pedestrians to cross the street; and,
- Educate motorists and pedestrians on applicable responsibilities and ordinances pertaining to safety and sharing the road.

The Pedestrian Plan includes recommendations that address the study's findings as well as a summary of best practices for pedestrian crossings, intersection designs, an updated sidewalk program, pedestrian facility recommendations, as well as programs and initiatives to encourage walking in Raleigh. The plan as approved removes the recommendation to create a separate pedestrian advisory commission as recommended by the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission

The comprehensive pedestrian plan can be viewed by visiting the City of Raleigh's website and entering "Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan" in the search box.

For more information, contact the City of Raleigh Office of Transportation Planning at 919-996-2155.

## Design Review to be Held on Two Traffic-Calming Projects

Citizens are invited to attend a design review for two proposed major traffic-calming projects. The design review will be held during the Raleigh City Council's meeting on Feb. 5 at 7 p.m. in the council chamber on the second floor of the Avery C. Upchurch Government Complex, 222 W. Hargett St. The City Council voted unanimously on Jan. 2 to hold the design review.

Input from citizens will be accepted at the design review for the following proposed traffic-calming projects:

- Glascock Street from Brookside Drive to North Raleigh Boulevard; and,
- Rainwater Road from Spring Forest Road to Hunting Ridge Road.

Both projects meet requirements in the City's Neighborhood Traffic Management Program policy, which covers traffic-calming projects. This includes completing a petition of support signed by owners or occupants of at least 75 percent of the properties along the impacted street and holding two public workshops on the projects.

Traffic-calming projects are designed to reduce speeding on neighborhood streets. They include a combination of public education, police enforcement and changes to the roadway in order to reduce speeding by motorists traveling through neighborhoods. The roadway changes may include the installation of curb extensions, bulb-outs, median islands or traffic tables.

For additional information contact Eric Lamb at 919-516-2161.

## **The Raleigh Historic Development Commission Recommends Use of Historic Preservation Professional for Dix Property**



The Raleigh Historic Development Commission presented a letter of recommendation regarding development of the Dorothea Dix Hospital property to the Raleigh City Council during its regular meeting on January 2. The City entered into a lease with the State of

North Carolina on December 28, 2012 to develop the Dix property as a destination park.

The commission, City Council's official advisory body on matters related to historic preservation, recommended that the City "retain a professional with expertise in historic preservation, independent of and prior to the master planning process" to evaluate the condition and historic value of the existing buildings, and their potential for adaptive reuse.

The commission noted that the property contains approximately 1.3 million square feet of buildings, many of which are identified as historic in Dix Hill's National Register nomination. Dix Hill is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and Spring Hill (the Theophilus Hunter House) is designated a Raleigh Historic Landmark.

Council and staff expressed support for the commission's recommendation and for an extensive evaluation process involving input from all stake-holders. For more information, contact Martha Hobbs Lauer at 919-996-2649.

## **Residents Invited to Public Meeting on Proposed Expansion of Wastewater Treatment Plant**

The City of Raleigh Public Utilities Department is hosting a public meeting on Phase III of the proposed expansion of the Neuse River Wastewater Treatment Plant. The public meeting will be held at 4 p.m. on Jan. 22 in Training Room A/B at the plant, located at 8500 Battle Bridge Road.

The purpose of the public meeting is to present information on the scope of the proposed project, which must be approved by the City Council. Phase III is one part of a five-phase project to increase treatment capacity of the plant from 60 million gallons per day to 75 million gallons per day.

The cost of Phase III is estimated at \$28.2 million. The project would be financed from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. The project's effect on sewer rates will also be presented at the public meeting.

Copies of the Engineering Report/Environmental Information Document for Phase III of the project are available for public review at the offices of Hazen and Sawyer, P.C., located at 4011 Westchase Blvd., Suite 500 in Raleigh. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays prior to the Jan. 22 public meeting.

For more information, contact the City of Raleigh Public Utilities Department at 919-996-4540 or visit the City's website at [www.raleighnc.gov](http://www.raleighnc.gov).

## **City of Raleigh Offers Citizens' Annual Financial Report**

The City of Raleigh is offering the Citizens' Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year that was July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012.

The report is available on the City's website at [www.raleighnc.gov](http://www.raleighnc.gov).

If you would like a hard copy of the report, make your request by calling the City of Raleigh Public Affairs Department at 919-996-3100 or by email at [public.affairs@raleighnc.gov](mailto:public.affairs@raleighnc.gov).

## **Council Approves Amending Unified Development Ordinance to Permit Community Gardens**

The Raleigh City Council, on Jan. 2, approved a change in the proposed new Unified Development Ordinance to classify community gardens in vacant lots zoned Residential-10, as a limited use. A limited use does not require public hearings or notices prior to issuance. The change was recommended by the City Council's Law and Public Safety Committee during its December 11, 2012 meeting. The regulations would be effective once the City Council approves the Unified Development Ordinance.

Community gardens are areas of land managed and maintained by a group of individuals to grow and harvest food crops and/or

non-food ornamental crops, such as flowers, for personal or group use, consumption or donation.

Council also approved the establishment of a City staff liaison person to address community garden-related issues.

For more information, contact the City of Raleigh Department of Planning and Development 919-996-2626 or the Parks and Recreation Department 919-996-3285.

## Public Hearing on Stone's Warehouse Rezoning Is Set For Feb. 5

Raleigh City Council, Jan. 2, directed City staff to continue working with the Vann Joines/Landmark Group in an effort to rezone the Stone's Warehouse property, located at the corner of East Street and Davie Street, on the southeast side of Downtown Raleigh. A joint public hearing of the City Council and Planning Commission to discuss the rezoning will be held on February 5.

The rezoning would permit the City-owned block to be redeveloped with an apartment complex geared towards artists and entrepreneurs with lower than area median incomes. The complex would provide living, working and community space for tenants. The City purchased the property in 2001.

The Vann Joines/Landmark Group approached the City with the proposal, and will pursue low-income tax credits. The deadline for submission of an application for low-income housing tax credits is January 25.

For more information, contact Travis Crane at 919-996-2656.

## Additional Funding Approved for Carolina Ballet

The Raleigh City Council has approved giving \$75,000 to the Carolina Ballet to cover a funding shortfall this fiscal year. Council members voted 5-3, Jan. 2, to allocate the money from the City's fuel contingency fund.

In the current Fiscal Year 2012-13 budget, the City of Raleigh appropriated \$250,000 in arts agency funding for the Carolina Ballet.

## Stewart Engineering Chosen For Six Forks Sidewalk Replacement Effort

The Raleigh City Council, on Jan. 2, elected to negotiate a contract with Stewart Engineering for design services for the Six Forks Road sidewalk project. Small Disadvantaged Minority and Women-Owned Business participation is expected to be approximately 90 percent.

The sidewalk project will include the construction of sidewalks along the north side of Six Forks Road between Wake Forest Road and Coleridge Road. The majority of the work will be located between Selby Drive and Coleridge Drive. However, the project



will include retrofitting existing ramps to meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards along the entire corridor. There will be crosswalk adjustments at the intersection with Wake Forest Road. The project will also include a pedestrian bridge across the stream between Anderson Drive and Oakland Drive.

The work will include engineering design, surveying, subsurface utility engineering, right of way/easement plats, and bidding and contract services to provide construction drawings. The project design will be funded by the City of Raleigh through use of excess funding from previously completed projects. However, the remaining project construction will be funded by a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant from the North Carolina Department of Transportation with 80 percent federal funding and a 20 percent City match. The construction budget for this work was \$483,000 and the City's local match of \$100,000 is funded in the Fiscal Year 2013 Capital Improvement Program.

For more information contact Chris Johnson at 919-996-4057.

## City of Raleigh's Annual Small Business Expo Set for Jan. 17 at Southeast Raleigh High School

The City of Raleigh's 15th annual expo for small disadvantaged minority- and women-owned businesses will be held on Thursday, Jan. 17 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Southeast Raleigh High School, 2600 Rock Quarry Road. The expo is free.

The expo is held annually to provide small disadvantaged minority- and women-owned businesses with an opportunity to talk one-on-one with purchasing and acquisition representatives from participating entities. These include the City of Raleigh, Wake County Public School System, local general contractors looking for subcontractors, end users and other vendors. The representatives also will share information with small businesses about upcoming projects for 2013. Bilingual staff will be available for assistance.

For more information about the expo, contact the City of Raleigh at 919-996-3840.

## Public Invited to Share Budget Priorities with City Council on Feb. 5

The Raleigh City Council will hold a pre-budget public hearing on Tuesday, Feb. 5 at 7 p.m. to receive public comment on the budget for Fiscal Year 2013-14. Residents are invited to attend the public hearing to share their budget priorities for Raleigh.



The public hearing will be held in the council chamber on the second floor of the Avery C. Upchurch Government Complex, 222 W. Hargett St.

The purpose of the pre-budget public hearing is for residents to provide input to the council regarding budgetary matters prior to commencement of the City's annual budget development process. City Manager J. Russell Allen is working with City staff to draft a budget proposal that he will present to the City Council on May 21. A public hearing on the budget proposal is scheduled for June 4 at 7 p.m. The City Council must adopt a budget for the City of Raleigh no later than July 1.

The City's fiscal year is from July 1 to June 30.

For more information, contact the City of Raleigh Budget and Management Services Department at 919-996-3840.

## Sign Up for MyRaleigh Subscriptions for Free

My Raleigh Subscriptions is a free, subscription-based service offered to residents by the City of Raleigh. This service allows the City to provide residents access to relevant information by proactively delivering new information through email and wireless alerts.

Subscribers may select to receive email or text message notifications about a variety of City topics. The 100 plus topics range from alerts, newsletters, meeting agendas, new releases, event information, project updates, service notices to recreation information.

To learn more, visit the City's website at [www.raleighnc.gov](http://www.raleighnc.gov) and go to MyRaleigh Subscriptions in the upper right corner.

## Follow the City of Raleigh on Twitter

Looking for the most up-to-date information from the City of Raleigh? Follow your local government via Twitter! Twitter is a free services that allows you to "follow" people or subjects via short, frequent updates. The City of Raleigh now offers Twitter users the opportunity to stay informed about the latest news and breaking events. To join in, visit one of the following City maintained accounts:

**RaleighGov** - This feed features links to any news releases and alerts issued by the City of Raleigh;

**RaleighBPAC** - This feed features information from the City of Raleigh Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission;

**RaleighParks** - This feed features any news and information related to the City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department;

**RaleighPlanning** - This feed features any news and information related to the City of Raleigh Planning and Development Department;

**RalCommServices** - This feed features any news and information related to the City of Raleigh Community Services Department;

**RW911** - This feed features traffic accidents reported to the Emergency Communications Center;

**RaleighGoGreen** - This feed features news and information from the City of Raleigh Solid Waste Services Department Recycling program.

To follow any of these, simply choose "Find People" from your Twitter home page and type in the account name you are interested in and then click "follow." It's that easy.

## Follow the City of Raleigh on Facebook

**City of Raleigh** - The main City of Raleigh Facebook page keeps you informed about events, holidays and other news items.

**City of Raleigh Planning and Development** - The Raleigh Planning and Development page provides guidance for the growth, preservation and development of the City of Raleigh in order to maintain a community of lasting value.

**Community Services Department** - The Community Services Department Facebook page posts a variety of community and neighborhood news, stories, awards, classes and Citizen Advisory Council information.

**Emergency Communications** - The Raleigh-Wake County 911 Facebook page posts information on job openings, public engagement and other 911 related happenings.

**Raleigh Police Department** -The Raleigh Police Department Facebook page focuses on public safety. Posts concerning crime alerts, missing people, requests for citizen assistance and more.

## Traffic Alerts

For more City of Raleigh News and Updates on Road Closures, Parades and Road Races, visit the City's website at [www.raleighnc.gov](http://www.raleighnc.gov).

### ROAD RACES

**January 15** Traffic will be affected downtown for a road race from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. The runners will assemble on the 100 block of E. Edenton Street and travel to Hillsborough Street. They will continue west to Oberlin Road, turn right and circle the round-about, travel to Pullen Road, circle the round-about, and return to the starting line.

**Feb. 9** Traffic will be impacted downtown from 7 a.m. until 11 a.m. for Krispy Kreme Challenge road race.

### STREET CLOSINGS

None at this time.

### PARADES

**January 19, 2013** Traffic will be affected near Nash Square from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. for a parade. The group will travel south on McDowell Street to Martin Street, east to Salisbury Street, north to Morgan Street, east to Wilmington Street, north to Jones Street, west to Salisbury Street, south to Edenton Street, west to Edenton Street where they will disassemble.

NewsCOR is also available electronically. Please contact the City of Raleigh Public Affairs Department at 919-996-3100 if you would prefer to receive NewsCOR by email.